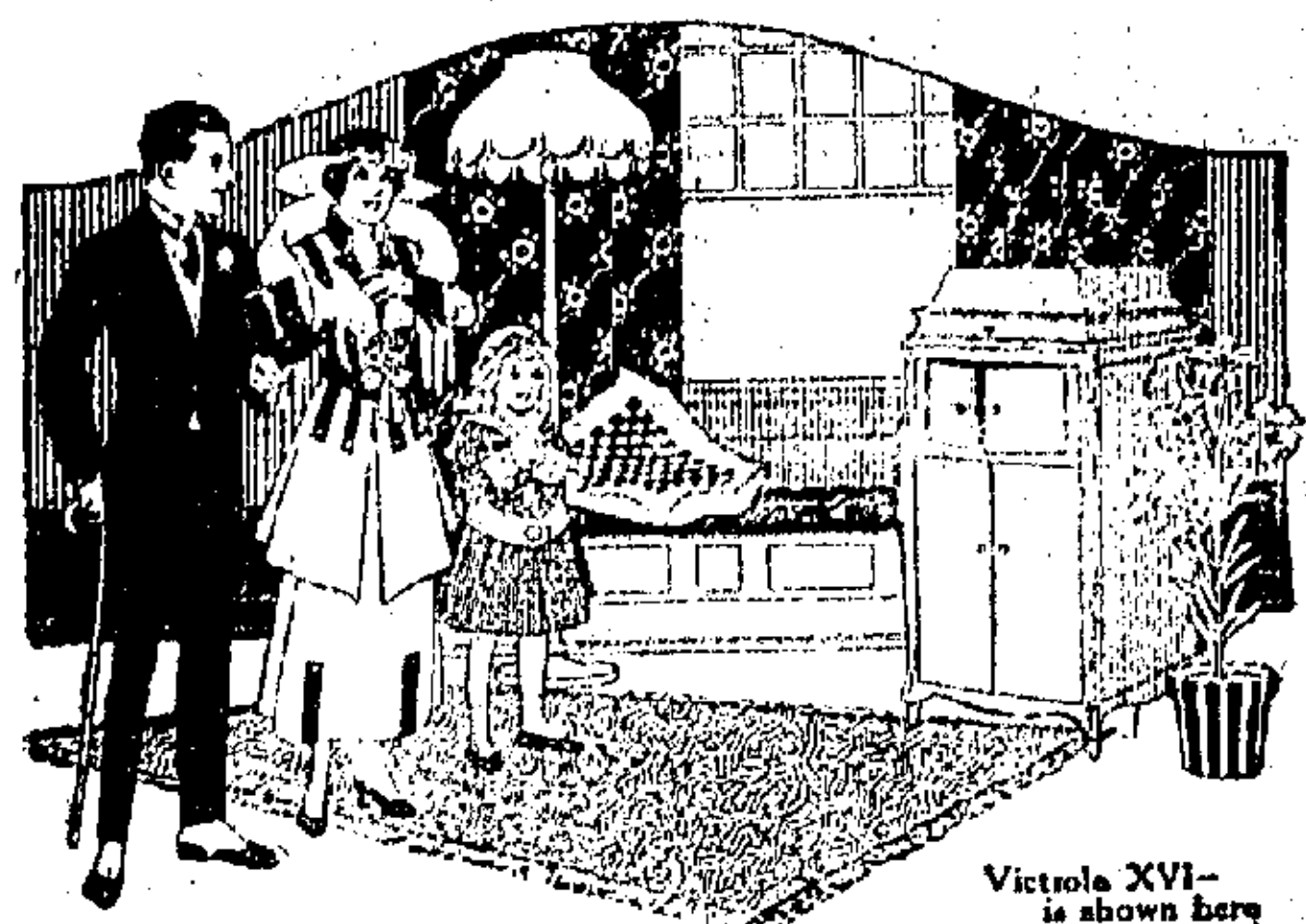


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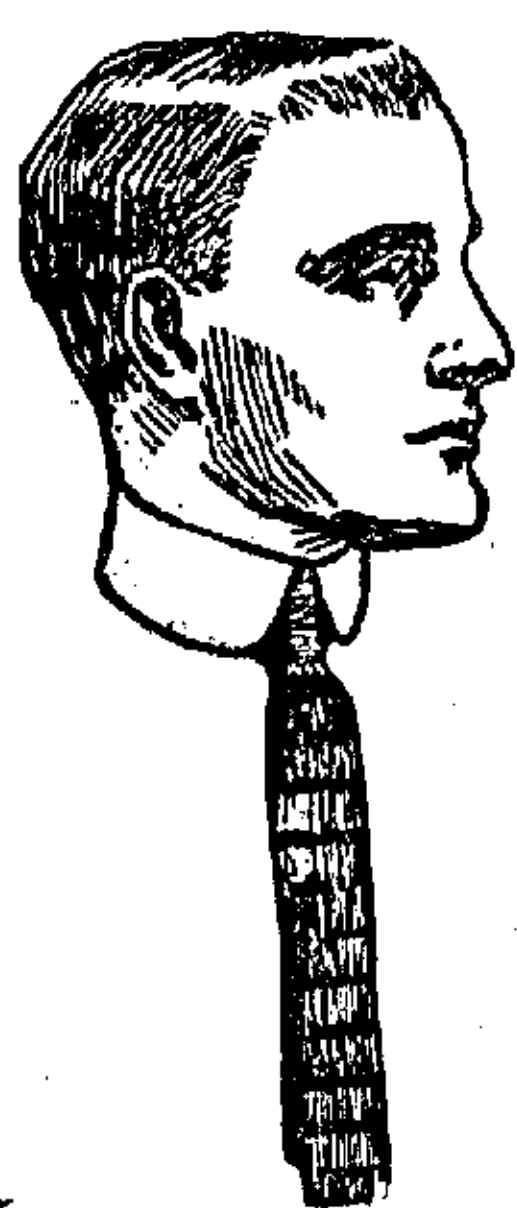
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WOMEN'S VOTES.

CARRIED BY A MAJORITY OF 330.
A FREE VOTE.

Women's suffrage (votes for women of 30) was carried in the House of Commons (as briefly announced by cable at the time) by 333 votes to 55.

The Government left the question to the unfettered judgment of the House. An anti-suffragist proposal to make women's suffrage subject to a referendum was ruled out of order, not without protests. The attack on votes for women was led by Sir Frederick Bantock. He admitted gratefully all that women have done in the war, but were these war-workers the women who wanted the vote? Gladstone was quoted to show that women M.P.s—and even a woman Speaker—are the inevitable sequel; and it was submitted that our Indian subjects would not be particularly impressed by a Government of women.

The emotional character of women was dwelt on as unfitting them for the important task of legislating, and Sir Frederick—as did other speakers—drew unfavourable portraits from the emotion of Miss Rankin, the only woman in the United States Congress, when called upon to decide for war. The vote, he prophesied, would soon be extended to all women, and then men will be outnumbered. He retailed the joke of the character woman saying: "Will men be allowed to vote in the future?" and her companion's reply, "Yes, dear, at first." (Laughter.)

Charles Robhouse, an ex-liberal Minister, seconded the rejection of the clause.

LORD HUGH'S NOVELTIES. Lord Hugh Cecil, championing the cause of the Suffragists, took the view that too much fuss altogether was being made about the reform. He lightly divided the country into "pinks" and "whites"—the "pinks," those who cannot discuss the question without getting red in the face; the "whites," the more restrained. He burlesqued the far-fetched arguments of both sides by plotting two novelists as they suggested themselves to his whimsical mind.

The pink Suffragist would write one entitled "Saved by the Vote; or, A Tale of Lawless Love." (Laughter.) It would be the traditional story of Lovelace and Clarissa. When the licentious villain was about to seize the peerless maiden some chance phrase there might be a by-election in the neighbourhood—(laughter)—would remind him that she was not merely a woman but a voter, and the lawful authority of the suffrage would restrain him. He would yield to the dignity of citizenship what he denied to honour and chastity. (Laughter.)

The pink romance would have the title "How Mother Voted; or, The Rained Home." (Laughter.) She would draw a picture of the simple parlour before the vote was bestowed. Then the mother would begin to brew the table with paper and drive her husband to the public-house by insisting on reading the leading articles to him. By and by she herself would give way to drink and go to an inebriated home, and from that seclusion exercise the suffrage as an absent voter.

AN ACT OF JUSTICE. These jests left everybody laughing and rather overshadowed Lord Hugh's main argument, which was that the vote was a reasonable act of justice and of policy, and that the experience of women's use of the municipal vote need not alarm the most conservative.

Mr. William Burdett-Coutts spoke earnestly and feelingly against women's suffrage. The balance is always weighed down naturally in favour of women, and he feared the result of this effort to place them on an equality with men.

Then Sir F. E. Smith, the Attorney-General, explained how it was that he remains avowed from women's suffrage while still supporting the Bill. The measure represented the agreed solution of a very difficult problem, he pointed out, and he was not prepared to upset it. For hours the debate dragged on, but fervour sparkled as the evening wore. Sir John Simon regarded women as "essential elements in the structure of the State for the purposes of war," and they must play their part in the work of building up the State when peace came. Opponents of the reform argued that a moribund Parliament had no right to bestow it, and also protested that the soldiers had not been consulted about it.

SUFFRAGE AND DIVORCE. Sir Stuart Coats diverted the House with a sheet of American quotations to show that in the woman suffrage States divorce had increased and reforms had lagged. The experiences of Colorado figured largely. "Tell us the views of Brigham Young!" cried a member jocularly, and the House roared.

Lord Robert Cecil dealt rapidly with the arguments and advocated the reform with great seriousness on the ground that women's suffrage would make for the contentment and good government of the people. The large majority of those enfranchised under this Bill would be married women and over 30, and he felt women in this category could be trusted to act with caution. As a genuine Conservative, who believed that violent change was disastrous but that resistance to all change was more disastrous, he supported this reform. The Bill was found to dip heavily to the Radical side if they struck out the provision for enfranchising women over 30.

Mr. Arnold Ward wound up the debate for the anti-Suffragists, protesting that the Prime Minister was not even present when this momentous step was to be taken. The debate ended in a mirthful manner. Major Hunt opposed the closure, but for a long time could find no supporter to accompany him to a division and his wandering from member to member in search of a second teller was a comic spectacle, exciting much laughter. Finally Commander Bellairs was secured. The closure was carried, and the division on the main question resulted as stated above.

VON BISSING'S LAST WILL.

[BY "AN ENGLISHMAN."]

Among those who, after the war, will go down the ages branded with dishonour and disgrace, the ineffable Baron von Bissing will always hold a foremost place.

He is assured of the same immortality which the great masters of cruelty may boast. He will share the notoriety of all those other monsters who have made war upon women and children, who have brutally entreated those who could not defend themselves.

And his distinction will be greater than that of his rivals. They did their best to butcher cities. He has bled a whole country well-nigh to death.

The murderer of Miss Cavell, then, needed not to add another leaf to his crown of obloquy. Yet he knew not how to stay his hand, for von Bissing was not merely cruel, he was stupid as well. He was of those who are so grossly puffed up with pride that they cannot measure the effect of their crimes. By killing an Englishwoman who had given her life to the tending of the sick and wounded he had little to gain. He did not foresee in his arrogance what would be the undivided verdict of the civilised world. Nor even in his death could he leave himself a loophole of escape. He composed his last will and testament in such terms as will make him for ever a byword of shame and ridicule.

It is not easy for those who are not barbarians to understand the mental processes of the Hun. For their own sinister purposes they chose to hack their way through Belgium. They gladly tore up scraps of paper and made light of solemn treaties. And ever since their unjustified invasion they have held an aggravated tone. They complain that the military occupation of Belgium is very costly and with a complete lack of humour they are always extracting from the Belgians still greater sums, that the poor victims of Hunnish brutality should pay for the wrongs inflicted upon them. With equal right might the burglar send in a bill of costs to the peaceful citizen whose crib he had thought it useful to crack.

BELGIAN COAST ESSENTIAL. But it is in von Bissing's last will and testament that the foul design of Germany is most frankly disclosed. He puts no limit on his cynicism. He talks in the familiar strain of dire necessity and his Fatherland's sacred duty. Nothing will satisfy his posthumous greed save the complete annexation of Belgium. The hinterland is of no use by itself. The coal mines are very well in their way, and quite worth stealing. But what Germany must insist upon acquiring is the Belgian coast. Germany must reach the sea, for how otherwise shall she threaten England, her great, indeed her only, enemy?

Von Bissing, of course, always made a great pretence of cynicism. He pictured himself, no doubt, as a kind of Bismarck. He was sure that force was the sole remedy for human ills, and it was no part of his policy to conciliate anybody. He repudiated with scorn all the amiable things that have been said by the Flemings about the Flemings. Though he played his part in establishing the Flemish University, which boasted more professors than students, he knew that this was but a way of throwing dust in their eyes. He would use the Flemings if he could; he would not permit them the smallest privilege. The utmost concession he would allow himself to make was to play them off against the Walloons. "Divide and govern" is one of the elementary maxims which even this blunderer could understand.

But in his desire to divide he had no intention of granting independence even to the Flemings, among whom he pretended there were many even and very many still undeclared friends. "We must do everything," he left it on record for his friends, "without delay to renounce boundless hopes on the part of the Flemings." Some of them were foolish enough to dream of a separate State of Flanders, with a King to govern it. This dream von Bissing brushed hastily aside. There was only one prospect for Flanders, as for the rest of Belgium, the prospect of complete subjection to Germany's will. She had permitted providence to interpose her between Germany and France. Geography had been indiscreet enough to give her a coast line opposite to England. And therefore she must pay whatever penalty the Boches chose to exact for the indiscretion of geography or the waywardness of providence.

LOUVER BOATS THAN EVER. Indeed, we have travelled far from the day on which Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg acknowledged the wrong that had been done to Belgium and proposed reparation. Von Bissing, as he lay dying, urged upon his countrymen the necessity of avoiding during the peace negotiations all discussion about the form of the annexation, and of applying nothing but the right of conquest. The procedure of Germany, he was sure, must be "just and ruthless." We may deny the justice. We cannot but acknowledge the ruthlessness of von Bissing's plan. But as the outrageous baron composed his political testament he was still haunted by the spectre of the King of the Belgians. The lofty heroism of this patriot-king troubled his death-bed. He turned uneasily upon his pillow, no doubt, when he thought that, after all, his schemes of cruelty and exaction might be upset by the unconquerable serenity of a hero. "The King of the Belgians," he said, "will be deposed, and will remain abroad as an aggrieved enemy. But even then he did not despair. 'We can read in Machiavelli,'" said this dying philosopher, "that he who desires to take possession of a country will be compelled to remove the King or Regent, even by killing him."

We are glad, in truth, to receive this open revelation of Germany's designs upon Belgium. We know now that they contemplate not merely theft but murder. To discover the war aims of our enemy is the first useful step towards the thwarting of them. In the face of von Bissing's last will and testament the chatter of no indemnities and no annexations seems idle indeed. The Germans, if they could, would annex Belgium, and having put King Albert to

(Continued at foot of next column.)

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

Mr. H. E. Campbell, of Messrs. Illbert & Co., has left Shanghai for active service.

A letter from Mr. E. M. Gull, of the staff of the N.C. Daily News, says that he is in the same company with Mr. J. H. Teesdale, and sharing a tent with him.

Major (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) E. G. L. Thurlow, D.S.O., Somerset Light Infantry, who was with his regiment in Tientsin, has been appointed brevet Lieut.-Colonel for war services in France.

Mr. H. Smith, who for many years has filled the post of sworn measurer, and who was one of Hankow's best known and popular residents, left recently to join His Majesty's service, says the Central China Post.

Major (temp. Brigadier-General) R. N. Bray, West Riding Regiment, who was formerly Commandant of the Shanghai Volunteers, has been appointed brevet Lieutenant-Colonel for distinguished service in the field.

Capt. R. Llewellyn Jones, who has recently had a second spell in hospital, writing from France, on June 23rd, says he met H. R. Remington, R.F.A., a Shanghai man, at Abbeville. Lieut. Dixon, of Maitland & Co., also "bobbed up" and said he was with a Labour Battalion along with E. O. Cumming and other Shanghai men.

Mr. Albert Kliene, of Messrs. P. F. Wisner & Co., Shanghai, has been granted a commission in the British Army. He is the eldest son of Mr. C. Kliene, of the Customs service. He hopes, "somewhere in France," to join his younger brother Guy, a Lieut.-Colonel in the 16th Batt. Black Watch, who has been on active service since the beginning of the war.

News has been received in Shanghai that Sgt. William McGillivray, formerly of West Hongkong Police Station, has received wounds in action in France that necessitated amputation of the left arm. His cousin, Sgt. W. D. McGillivray, one-time at Sinza Police Station, writing from England on June 17th while on short home leave, says that "Corpl. Conduit is still in England, and that Rankin has got his discharge and will be soon going back to Shanghai."

2nd Lieut. J. C. Porter, Machine gun Corps, killed in action on July 24th, was prominent in the sporting world in Shanghai (says the N.C. Daily News), playing centre forward for the Shanghai Football Club. For several seasons before the war he played for the Shanghai Interport Team. Lieut. Porter left with the first contingent on October 10th, 1914. After a brief period of training in England he went to France in February, 1915, as a member in King Edward's Horse. In the latter part of December, 1915, he returned to England to train for his commission. Having obtained this, he crossed over to France for the second time in April last. Prior to leaving Shanghai Mr. Porter was on the staff of the British American Tobacco Company.

Mr. Edward Mackenzie, only brother of Mr. H. G. Mackenzie, was killed when in action with his regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders, 10th Battalion, on July 20th. Mr. Mackenzie, who was 37 years of age, went to Shanghai (says the N.C. Daily News) at the age of 15, serving his apprenticeship, as an engineer, with Messrs. Boyd & Co., after which he joined Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, rising to be chief engineer in their service on one of their coastal boats. He received leave to take a store ship from Hongkong to Malta and Marseilles, after which he went to Scotland and joined the Seaforth Highlanders, in October, 1915. In February, 1916, he was ordered to France and was slightly wounded in April of this year. He rejoined his regiment very recently and, as stated, was killed in action on July 20th.

CHIEF SCOUT IN AN AIR RAID.

Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout, recently inspected a big rally of South-West Scouts at Hurlingham Club, and in his address told a story of the recent air raid. He was in a train that was bombed, and several were killed and a number injured. One poor fellow had his thigh badly injured, and was in danger of bleeding to death. He (Sir Robert) ran up to afford help, saying, "Can I be of any use?" whereupon a youth, who was already rendering first aid, looked up and gave the Scout sign. "So," added Sir Robert, "you recognise what a thing it is to be prepared and to have the name of being prepared."

death would proceed to extort from the unhappy Belgians the whole cost of their brutality. In other words, they would indemnify themselves for the toll it gave them to annex. And we only wish that all the sentimental Socialists in the world would forget their copybook headings for an hour or two and give themselves seriously to the study of von Bissing's political testament.

It is characteristic of the Germans that the tighter the noose of defeat is drawn about their necks the more loudly they lift up their voice to boast. And even as they boast they must know well that Belgium shall never be theirs. Until that ravaged country be restored to its ancient independence and prosperity the Allies will never sheathe their sword. At this very moment the Huns hold upon Belgium is loosened. It matters not that von Bissing bragged and threatened with his dying breath. The answer to his will and testament has already been given—at the Messines Ridge—Daily Mail.

THE NAUGHTY BOYS OF THE ARMY.

[BY EDWIN BUGH, THE WELL-KNOWN NOVELIST.]

Soon after the war broke out there was an idea in the air that it might not be altogether a bad thing to release certain inmates of our prisons and send them out to the front.

It was argued that by thus allowing them to fight for their King and country they would be given a chance to redeem their past and regain their self-respect. Against this proposition it was urged that the soldiers of the new Army would most strongly and quite reasonably object to having to consort with criminals.

So the idea was apparently dropped. Anyway we heard no more about it—until a little while ago, when it was officially announced that over 7,000 out of 15,000 convicts and other minor misdoers had been permitted to volunteer for active service, and that the vast majority of them had made good.

One assumes that they were first of all trained and drilled in separate bodies under special supervision and then drafted into various regiments as if they had been ordinary recruits, their new comrades knowing nothing of their antecedents, themselves free of the stigma and reproach that would otherwise have attached to them as "galloids."

Even so this would seem a fair basis to have been an extremely hazardous experiment, only to be justified by its success. Further consideration of the matter, based on a fuller knowledge of the facts, tends to prove, however, that the authorities were not taking such terrible risks, after all, that they knew full well what they were at, and had certain data to go upon which would in a measure have justified their action even if the experiment had turned out a comparative failure. And, of course, every precaution was taken to make it a success.

This fact was forthcoming in the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Reformatories and Industrial Schools published towards the end of 1915. From this report it appeared that, leaving out a considerable number of younger boys organised to assist in munition-making, 1,437 older boys—youths and young men—had been enlisted direct from their various institutions in the Navy and Army, while an additional 2,694 had been enlisted on licence or under supervision, making a grand total of over 4,000 in the two arms of the Service.

A careful record extending over eight months was kept of the behaviour and doings of these so-called "ex-convicts." It had its darker as well as its brighter side. To take the darker side first: 330 were killed in action; 49 died of wounds, 13 died of sickness, and 1,530 were more or less seriously wounded. From this it will be seen that more than half of them gave their lives or suffered some grievous hurt in their country's cause.

Now to take the brighter side of the record: 20 were mentioned in despatches, 25 received the D.C.M., 8 were given commissions, and 3 received the V.C.

Deducting from this list those who were injured or otherwise incapacitated, we find that between 2 and 3 per cent. of these lads achieved some high distinction—a truly marvellous result, unexcelled, if not unparalleled, by the record of any other regiment engaged in this war. No wonder, then, that on this showing the authorities felt justified beforehand in extending the same privileges that they had granted these naughty boys so as to include those other more hardened sinners of maturer years.

Now let us set besides these facts and figures the current statistics which would seem to prove that there has been a great increase in juvenile crime lately. Does it mean that there is a new spirit of lawlessness abroad which has so infected the younger generation that they have become more wicked than they used to be?

I think not. I think that if we call this new spirit a spirit of adventure rather than a spirit of lawlessness we shall get nearer the truth. I think that it is more often this higher spirit, born of misguided courage and mistaken enterprise, than any cold desire of mere gain that impels boys to kick over the traces, incites men first of all to petty offences, and at last launches them irrecoverably on a career of crime.

AUSTRIAN SHIPS BOUGHT BY AMERICA.

WHAT GERMANY LOST.

The recent boom on the Vienna Stock Exchange in Austro-American shipping shares was due, says the *Kölnische Zeitung*, to speculators getting to know that the Austrian Government had permitted the company to sell several of its ships in American harbours on very advantageous terms. The Austro-American Company, it appears, sold, with the permission of the Government, seven of its medium-sized cargo steamers to America for 55 million kronen, which may be considered equivalent to a profit of thirty millions. Two vessels of the Austrian-Lloyd lying in Chinese harbours were also sold at a high profit.

The manager of one of the largest German shipping concerns has informed the *Kölnische Zeitung* that if the Germans had been given in time the same permission as the Austrians, the Lloyd and Hamburg-Amerika Lines would certainly have been able to save more than half a milliard of marks for German national capital. Now the vessels are sold, and the money, too. The paper points out that German owners applied to the German Government for permission to sell their vessels, but, with the exception of large passenger steamers the Government delayed its consent until the political condition had been so changed that a sale was no longer possible.

THE BISHOP ON GOD.

PROBLEMS OF LIFE AND DEATH.

(Contributed.)

At the war anniversary service the Bishop of Victoria, as reported in your issue of to-day, made references to the authors of two books which have been discussed in your columns and which have received long notices in the Press of Great Britain. It is perhaps, not too much to say that both Lodge's "Raymond or Life after Death" and Wells' "The Invisible God" have attracted more attention and had a wider circulation than any other two books produced since the outbreak of the war; not even excepting McKenna's novel "Son of Between Two Worlds," which is a book with a moral, or a sermon wrapped up in a plot.

The Bishop of Victoria adopts the same attitude towards Mr. Wells' latest confession of faith as does the Bishop of Oxford, and possibly other leaders of the Church. Brilliant writer and original thinker as Wells has always been, most of us must give a sigh of relief to know that he has found something higher in life than the crude animism revealed in "Anno Veronica." He has discovered a God, limited, struggling as human beings struggle, helping those who will be helped, but he will have nothing to do with the doctrines of the Trinity and Incarnation. But Wells allows one of his characters in Mr. Britling to say: "Without religion life goes all to pieces." That is a comparatively recent discovery by Wells, and it is significant. There is nothing novel about Wells' conception of God; William James and Bernard Shaw have hinted at it, among other writers. The ingenious brain of Wells has produced a complicated idea of God; Chesterton puts it in his usually brilliant manner when he says that Wells complains about the God of the Trinity being complicated, but the God of H. G. Wells is ever so much more complicated. The significant fact about this book, however, is that, despite many previous writings which must have been considered blasphemous by strict Churchmen, despite the dismissal of the doctrines of the Trinity and Incarnation, even despite the diatribe against dogma, good Churchmen like the Bishop of Victoria more or less approve of the idea of Wells, although it is only fair to add that the Bishop says "Such a finite God as he (Wells) conceives is not likely to give final satisfaction for many earnest seekers." Then follows the introduction to the attack upon Lodge who has been, says the Bishop, "advocating what seems to me an unsentimental and unprofitable form of spiritualism."

"Concerning the masses and the charms used at the front, surely the Bishop takes these things too seriously. 'Luck,' or chance, does enter into our life a great deal, and because a friend sends a soldier a mascot purchased, probably, at a war charity sale, it does not follow that the soldier is a pagan. In the history of knight errantry a knight carried his lady's token; one of my most precious possessions is something given to me many years ago, and which is of no intrinsic value; yet it would be found on my body if in the future that body became 'cannon-fodder' at the front. The soldier of whom the Bishop says that he sent home a rosary to be blessed by the vicar had a simple faith in the vicar's powers, which, if it had been shown by accepting the vicar's interpretation of the word of God, would have won approval from the Church. The incident shows how very simple minded was the soldier."

"UNSCRIPTURAL AND UNPROFITABLE." It is, however, the Bishop's denunciation of "great and learned men like Sir Oliver Lodge" that merits our serious attention. This is no attack upon the Bishop's sincerity; there can be no doubt that he firmly believed what he said. Yet he has often believed and repeated the words "The greatest of these is charity."

In all of the writings of Lodge on the subject of life and death it is difficult to find him "advocating" spiritualism, and the selection of that word by the Bishop was unfortunate. What he does say is: "I have thought it my duty to speak out," and those of us who disagree most with him must, at least, grant that he has had courage to reveal to the public what must be sacred family affairs. Before Lodge attempted to explore the unknown, he had made a great reputation in science. If he had given one-half the time to commercialising and increasing in number his inventions that he has

given to his search after Truth, he would have been more famous than Marconi and have made himself a millionaire. He deliberately chose the more difficult task of doing what he thought was his duty.

To that the critic may reply: "Hell is a place paved with good intentions." Indeed, some clergy have not hesitated to suggest the agency of the Devil in connection with the alleged communications with the dead. That is the attitude of mind which has done so much harm to true religion in the past. Men of that type sent those who disagreed with them to the stake. They caused infinite harm to the cause they held most dear by their fanatical opposition to Darwin's suggestion of the evolution of man; they said that even the most innocent researches of science involved blasphemy. When the bold scientific man declared that the earth went round the sun, and not the sun round the earth, the orthodox Christian was startled. Did not the Scriptures say that both of the luminaries had stopped in their career at the command of Joshua? Away with the heretics who maintained a rank heresy when they said that the earth revolved round its axis! A Papal decree was peremptorily issued to the effect that the sun had to revolve round the earth—as had been stated in the Bible. But neither the progress of knowledge nor the rotation of the earth upon its axis was stopped by the Papal decree. Instances of blind, unreasoning opposition by the Church to new ideas can be multiplied. Every advance in knowledge has been at first regarded as subversive of the principles of morality. Yet in this age no region is left unexplored in either time or space; antiquity has to yield up its buried treasures; the stars reveal their secrets; the oldest dogmas must stand the test of modern knowledge.

After the war religion will have to face the need for re-statement and new knowledge. The ideas of the *Guardian* newspaper, quoted by the Bishop of Victoria, do not satisfy the ordinary hard-thinking individual; it is often too selfish and narrow in its outlook upon the big problems of life. The books issued by the leaders of the Church fail to attract attention; yet seven editions of "Raymond" appeared in three months. There are six other books on moral and religious matters by the same author; no possible harm can follow a study of them. With many of the conclusions of Sir Oliver Lodge the writer is unable to agree; but he can find nothing "unscriptural and unprofitable" in the writings. It would, perhaps, not be unfair to ask the Bishop to produce the evidence which led him to use such adjectives.

This wonderful continent of Asia has been the birth-place of all of the great religions. It may produce from among its millions yet another great teacher. A heavy responsibility is upon anyone who attempts to suggest that a thing is wicked because he does not understand it. The blank materialism of the mechanistic theory of the Universe fails to satisfy some of us and the dogmas and shibboleths tell us not to think. Mahomet once said: "There are two things which I abhor—the learned in his infidelities, and the fool in his devotions." The brilliant astronomer, Lalande, boasted that he had swept the heavens with his telescope and found no God; but he could give no limit to space although vision is limited. "Our churches," wrote Drummond, not many years ago—and the words apply to-day—"Our churches overflow with members who are mere consumers. Their interest in religion is purely parasitic. Their only spiritual exercise the automatic one of inhibition, the clergyman being the faithful Hermit Crab who is to be depended upon every Sunday for at least a week's supply. His senses now stirred by ceremony, now soothed by music, the parasite of the pew enjoys his weekly worship—his character untouched, his will unbraced, his crude soul unquicken and unimproved. There is no worse enemy to a living Church than a propositional theology, with the latter controlling the former by traditional authority. For one does not then receive the truth for himself; he accepts it bodily."

Many people refuse to think about problems which have no dollars in the answer. Some accept from others, in sloth and in slackness, solutions which they have no energy to work out for themselves. Neither of these classes would, one may be sure, win the approval of the Bishop. It is because one hopes that he will not refuse to those bereaved by the war a comfort and faith which nothing else can give them that the endeavour is made to persuade the Bishop, the clergy and the missionaries of this diocese not to condemn any search after Truth.

WAR ANNIVERSARY AT SIKH TEMPLE.

COLLECTION FOR WAR FUNDS.

A special service was held at the Sikh Temple on Saturday, the opening of the fourth year of the Great War.

During the meeting it was explained to those present how France was threatened and Belgium trampled upon by the German hosts, and how these crimes compelled Great Britain to take up arms in defence of her neighbours. Reference was also made to the benefits that India is enjoying under British rule, it being recalled that since the British occupation Governmental despotism had vanished, trade had been developed, facilities provided for locomotion, and means of education supplied—advantages which the people of old days would never have dreamed of. Furthermore, it was pointed out how it behoves every member of the Empire sincerely and loyally to render every possible assistance to end the war successfully.

The meeting was largely attended by the members of the H.K. S.B.R.G.A., the Hongkong Police, and other local Sikh residents.

The proceedings concluded with a prayer to the Almighty to strengthen the arms of our Empire's brave soldiers and bestow an invincible courage upon them, so that this world-wide struggle may terminate in favour of the Allies and the British Government, whose entry into the war was not due to any lust for territorial annexation or other selfish motive, but to a determination to defend and protect the weaker nations.

The appeal for War subscriptions was postponed until the following day and resulted in the collection of \$303:—

Mr. Ojagar Singh, Motor Car Co.	8	40
Mr. Harman Singh, Sun Yat Wharf	25	25
Mr. Mahan Singh, Army Ordnance	25	25
Mr. Kishan Singh, Pensioner, Cement Factory	25	25
Mr. Jagat Singh, Jemadar H.K.P.	20	20
Mr. Bishan Singh, Nambha Press	10	10
Mr. Partap Singh, Asiatic Petroleum Co.	10	10
Mr. Atma Singh, Kowloon Dock No. 15	10	10
Mr. Bishan Singh, Indian School	5	5
Mr. Param Singh, A. S. Watson & Co.	5	5
Mr. Santa Singh, Princes Buildings	5	5
Mr. Gurdit Singh, Princes Buildings	5	5
Mr. Indar Singh, David Sassoon & Co.	5	5
Mr. Indar Singh, German Club	5	5
Mr. Jhandu Singh, Sergt.-Maj. H.K.P.	5	5
Mr. Badhwa Singh, P.S. 210 H.K.P.	5	5
Mr. Sohan Singh, Grand Hotel	5	5
Mr. Nand Singh, P.S. 23 H.K.P.	5	5
Mr. Rupia Singh, 39, Seymour Road	5	5
Mr. Chet Singh, Palace Hotel	5	5
Mr. Mangal Singh, No. 8, Kowloon Dock	5	5
Mr. Dhin Singh, Queen's Buildings	5	5
Mr. Bachan Singh, Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Company	5	5
Mr. Vazir Singh, Bailey & Co.	5	5
Mr. Panja Singh, Asiatic Petroleum Co.	5	5
Mr. Purja Singh, Asiatic Petroleum Co.	5	5
Mr. Bhan Singh, Asiatic Petroleum Co.	5	5
Mr. Eashw Singh, Asiatic Petroleum Co.	5	5
Mr. Pala Singh, No. 7, Kowloon Dock	5	5
Mr. Mohar Singh, Mody's House	5	5
Mr. Phuman Singh, Talook Sugar Refinery	5	5
Mr. Kartar Singh, Str. Fatsan	5	5
Mr. Khem Singh, China Sugar Refinery	5	5
Mr. Jewala Singh, Nani Yang Co.	5	5
Mr. Chatur Singh, Lee House Street	5	5
Mr. Uttam Singh, Jemadar, Victoria Gaol	5	5
Mr. Teja Singh, Chartered Bank H.K.	5	5
Mr. Dhal Singh, Soap Factory, Shaukiwan	5	5
Mr. Tebal Singh, Sir C. P. Chatter's House	5	5
Mr. Lahi Singh, No. 86, Asst. Warder	5	5
Mr. Massa Singh, Ice Factory	5	5
Mr. Sardool Singh, Wisemana Cnfg	5	5
Mr. Kartar Singh, Kowloon Dispensary	5	5
Mr. Santa Singh, Cement Factory	5	5
Mr. Punjab Singh, Hongkong Club	5	5
Mr. Tara Singh, Standard Oil, Kowloon	5	5
Mr. Ojagar Singh, A. S. Watson & Co.	5	5
Mr. Surjan Singh, General Electric Co.	5	5
Mr. Moola Singh, Queen's Road Co.	5	5
Mr. Harman Singh, Hospital Warder	5	5
Y. G.	5	5
Mr. Natha Singh, Police Court	5	5
Mr. Dasanda Singh, Queen's Building	5	5
Mr. Ginda Singh, Yauwatt	5	5
Mr. Bag Singh, Coal Shed, Hongkong	5	5
Mr. Naurang Singh, Tramway Co.	5	5
Mr. Surjan Singh, D'Aguilar Street	5	5
Mr. Massa Singh	5	5
Mr. Gurdit Singh, Salt Fish Lane	5	5
Mr. Baghel Singh, Gas Co., West Point	5	5
Mr. Kahr Singh, Sir J. J. J.	5	5
Mr. Ajah Singh, Queen's Buildings	5	5
Mr. Moola Singh, Sir C. P. Chatter's House	5	5
Mr. Teja Singh, A.S.C.	5	5
Mr. Sundar Singh, N. Mody's House	5	5
Total	8303	

will not refuse to those bereaved by the war a comfort and faith which nothing else can give them that the endeavour is made to persuade the Bishop, the clergy and the missionaries of this diocese not to condemn any search after Truth.

An apology may be due to the Bishop for this criticism of his attitude towards the men who have laboriously compiled the forty volumes of Proceedings of the Society of Psychological Research. It has been an unpaid labour; rightly or wrongly they have done it on behalf of humanity. The evidence is there for all to see; if we cannot accept it as proof let us not condemn those who bear witness. Had the Bishop confined his audience to the worshippers in the Cathedral, one would have hesitated; but when he appeals to that much larger circle reached by the *Daily Press*, one feels entitled to use the same medium to suggest that there are other aspects of a subject which must interest all active thinkers.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SPECIAL TROOPS FOR ATTACK

LESSONS FROM SOISSONS AND CHAMPAGNE.

A CONTRAST IN METHODS.

[FROM "THE TIMES" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Not many hours after the publication in *The Times* of June 20th of the dispatch in which I gave some account of the organization of German "shock" troops, a detachment of these same troops gave a typical exhibition of the way in which they are employed in an engagement on the Mont des Singes, near Vauxaillon, a little way west of the western extremity of the Chemin des Dames. On the same day, between Mont Cornillel and Mont Blond, a small body of French troops, somewhat similarly organized, though with quite a different object, gained a brilliant victory over the considerably larger German force by which they were opposed. The two stories may well stand side by side. They illustrate, in my opinion, very clearly the difference between French and German methods of fighting and the racial characteristics by which they are dictated.

The affair on Mont des Singes, which was much the bigger operation, began with a German success, entirely due to the action of the *Stoosruppen*, and ended in the recovery of the whole of the ground lost in the first surprise, with the exception of the summit of the hill. The French had, however, managed to push forward a short communication trench ending in an observation post, from which they commanded some view of the enemy's positions beyond. By a sudden rush a body of *Stoosruppen*, carrying only grenades, and working in their shirtsleeves, carried this post and trench and swept on down the longer communication trench below it, the French retiring before them as they advanced. Having rushed along it as far as they could without incurring heavy losses, they made way for ordinary troops behind belonging to a division which had lately come from the Russian front, and fell back to the rear, after duly carrying out the job for which they were intended. The result was that French troops in the front trench a little way east of the one which had been rushed, seeing the enemy behind them, were obliged to retire, and quite a nice little block of entrenched ground fell into the hands of the enemy.

A counter-attack was, however, carried out almost at once, but, though the first attempt to drive the enemy out succeeded, on the right, the position on the left, from which the Germans were able, owing to the lie of the ground, to drop grenades straight down on the heads of the French troops, was too steep and difficult to be regained by direct frontal attack; and it was not till, at another attempt, it was stormed from two sides at once that our fell once more into the hands of our Allies. But the point is that it was so regrettably little loss of time, and consequently that all the work of the special "shock" troops, effective as it had been as a *coup de main*, was wasted.

FRENCH SPECIALISTS IN ACTION. The French have none of these separate "shock" troops. Their plan is to train behind the front officers, N.C.O.s, and men temporarily drafted from their own per regiments as specialists in the various weapons of attack, and then, before they rejoin their units as instructors, to put them through a kind of final examination in which they have been learning by posting them for a short time to some section of the front line where, as a separately organized force, they can try their newly-acquired knowledge of the handling of hand grenades, rifle grenades, machine-guns, and machine-rifles on the *corpus vile* of the enemy. That was what happened at Mont Cornillel.

On the ridge between it and Mont Blond, a little to the east, the Germans had still one observation post, the only one left to them on the Moronvilliers Massif, from which they still commanded a view of a small part of the French lines on the plain. The object of the newly-trained detachment was to take this post and two lengths of the front trenches communicating with it. That was their test examination. Only 62 of them were employed—squads of grenadiers and a handful of *faux mitrailleurs*, supported by machine-guns and 37s, and followed by four sections of infantry ready to take over the trenches when they should be captured. They were opposed by two companies of young men, commanded by Guards officers. The attack was to begin at 3.30 a.m. At 3 o'clock the enemy made a fruitless attack of his own, which lasted half an hour, and then the 62, who in the whole engagement lost only three killed and 17 wounded, made their dash. In half an hour the four sections had joined up, and in a very short time, after a full stout resistance, the enemy were in full retreat from the disputed trenches, leaving 200 dead behind them.

The officer, which was described to me by an officer who trained and commanded the men who carried it out, though quite small, was exceptionally brilliant, and all the circumstances, including the young lieutenant, who fought through it all in spite of the fact that he was twice wounded, go back to rejoin their regiments, not only as heroes, but as men who, having first learnt their job and then put it into practice, are the very best kind of instructors.

As for the difference between the two systems, it seems to me that the French plan of giving no special "shock" troops, but of instead, training all regiments to act in that capacity when the effort is demanded of them, is decidedly better than the German method of creating a special *corps d'élite* for special occasions. The one makes the best use of regiments, and *esprit de corps*, the other tends to weaken that invaluable quality by stripping individual regiments of their best fighters and giving almost inevitably to the residue a feeling of inferiority. But no doubt the Germans need no teaching as to the method which best suits the genius or the limitations of their nation and the necessities of the case.

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of 4 dozen.

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or \$5.10 per Dozen.

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PINTS—\$28.50 per case

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FOUR ROOMS at the Upper Terrace with usual Servants' Quarters. Very convenient. Electric Light and Water Carriage System.
Apply to—
PEAK TRAMWAYS Co.
[923]

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

LADIES' SECTION.

THERE will be no Competition for the Captain's Cup during August and September.
[918]

NOTICE.

THE HONGKONG STEEL FOUNDRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE SEVENTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, August 15th, 1917, at 1.30 A.M. for the purpose of presenting the Report of the General Managers, and Statement of Accounts to May 31st, 1917.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from August 8th to 15th 1917, both days inclusive.
GORDON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 6th August, 1917. [919]

THE STEAM LAUNDRY CO., LTD.

THE FIFTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Office of Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G., on SATURDAY, 18th August, 1917, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors with a Statement of Accounts to 31st May, 1917.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th August to 20th August, both days inclusive.
C. BERNARD BROWN,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 3rd August, 1917. [913]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 3482 dated Hongkong 19th February, 1900, for 50 Shares numbered 54219 to 54243, 10203 to 10207, 52840 to 52849, 4166 to 4190 and 55811 to 55815 and Provisional Certificate No. 15371 dated Hongkong 7th July, 1907, for 25 Shares numbered 82006 to 82030, all Registered in the name of Sir CARL MEYER, Bart., have been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate and this Provisional Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 2nd September, 1917, new Certificates for the Shares will be issued and the aforesaid Certificate No. 3482 and Provisional Certificate No. 43371 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation as Null and Void.
By Order of the Court of Directors,
N. J. STARR,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 1st August, 1917. [901]

KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. AMOY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the position of "INSPECTOR OF POLICE" to the KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Amoy.
Applicants should state their age, whether married or single, and should give full particulars on the subject of their previous experience.
A knowledge of Police duties and Hindustani are essential qualifications. Copies of testimonials need be sent in with the application.
The successful candidate will assume office on the 1st November, 1917.
The maximum salary to be paid to such Inspector of Police shall be \$250.00 Amoy currency per month with an annual increase of \$25.00 per month to a final maximum of \$300.00 per month.
The term of Agreement will be three years.
Uniform, Quarters, Fuel and Light and Medical Attendance will be provided.
Applications must be endorsed "APPOINTMENT OF POLICE INSPECTOR," addressed to the Chairman, KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Amoy, and should reach Amoy not later than September 30th, 1917.
By Order of the Council,
T. W. DOBSON,
Secretary, K.M.C. [978]

WANTED.

ENGINEER, BRITISH, as WORKS FOREMAN. Applications with Copy References in own writing, stating age, experience and salary required. No other applications considered.
W. S. BAILEY & CO., LTD.
[921]

WANTED.

AN EXPERIENCED PRINTER, capable of taking charge of an old-established Printing Office in the Straits Settlements. One with knowledge of the working of the Linotype Machines preferred. Good prospects to competent man.
Apply, with references, and stating age, nationality, and salary required, to—
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[912]

WANTED.

AN ENGINEER, experience in surveying and civil engineering.
Apply, stating experience etc.,
Box No. 3,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[908]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry. Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Lee House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently recon-structed.
For rent and other particulars apply to—
The MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.,
46, Connaught Road Central.
[900]

TO LET.

"HOMESTEAD" No. 43, PRAK, Unfurnished, immediate possession, for 3 months.
FLATS, "Wild Doll Building," Wanchai. HOUSES and FLATS, Gap Road.
Apply to—
SANG KEE,
Care of COMPTON'S DEPT.,
HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
[894]

TO LET.

DEVONIA, No. 9, Peak Road, SIX-ROOMED BUNGALOW, with Garden and Tennis Court. HOUSES in Sharnoon, Canton, Nos. 81 and 83.
Apply to—
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.
[808]

TO LET.

A FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE, with Tennis Court, in Minden Villas, Kowloon.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings.
[639]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.
OFFICE in King's Buildings.
A HOUSE, Knutsford Terrace (Kowloon).
HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terraces.
HOUSES on Sharnoon, Canton.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd.
[89]

WANTED.

A HOUSE or WHOLE FLOOR with about 10 Rooms in a central location.
Please apply to—
[Box No. 1,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
787]

FOR SALE.

BRITISH POSTAGE STAMPS in packets (no duplicate).
100 Stamps for \$0.75 125 Stamps for \$2.95
150 " " 1.75 275 " " 4.25
175 " " 2.25 300 " " 4.75
200 " " 2.75 325 " " 5.25
GRACA & CO.
No. 4, WYNDHAM STREET,
HONGKONG.
792

PUBLIC AUCTION.

By direction of the Government of Hongkong, Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH have received instructions to sell by Public Auction.

On MONDAY, the 13th day of August, 1917, at 3 P.M., at their Sales Room, Ice House Street, Victoria, Hongkong.

The following VALUABLE LEASE HOLD PROPERTY situated at Victoria, Hongkong, viz:—
All THOSE pieces or parcels of ground situated at Victoria aforesaid and known and registered in the Land Office as SECTION A OF MARINE LOT NO. 101 and SECTION B "OF MARINE LOT NO. 101. Together with the messuages, erections and buildings and buildings thereon known as No. 7, Queen's Road Central, Victoria aforesaid. Term 999 years, created by a Crown Lease dated the 6th day of April, 1880.

Area in respect of Section "A" of Marine Lot No. 101—8448 sq. ft. Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$64.48.
Area in respect of Section "B" of Marine Lot No. 101—675 sq. ft. Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$6.75.
For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to—
JOHNSON STOKES & MASTER,
Princes' Buildings,
Ice House Street, Hongkong,
Solicitors for the Liquidator of THE DEUTSCH ASIATISCHE BANK, or to
Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH,
The Auctioneers,
Hongkong, 6th May, 1917. [918]

ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE RATES OF EXCHANGE AT BOMBAY For Demand Drafts on London on the day of or preceding the departure of the English Mails; also Table of the Yearly Approximate Average for 30 years.

PRICE \$2 CASE.
On Sale at the DAILY PRESS Office, 20, Local Bookellers.

AUCTION

For Sale by Public Auction.

Subject to the conditions prescribed by the Straits Settlements "Alien Estates (Winding-up) Ordinance, 1914," as amended from time to time by Ordinances, 1 of 1915, XIX of 1915, XVI of 1916 and VI of 1917 and as adopted in this State:

All that land known as THE BATU LIMA ESTATE consisting of about 1,016 acres, 1 rood, 33 perches held under East Coast Country Grant No. 49 for 990 years from 1883, RENT FREE. About 275 acres of the land is planted with rubber (150 acres in bearing) and 50 acres with coconuts 3 to 4 years old.

Situated on main road within 5 miles of Sandakan Wharf.

The following buildings in good condition are on the Estate:

- 1 bungalow (40' x 30') containing 2 bedrooms, dining room and verandah. Corrugated iron roof plank walls, tiled floor.
- 1 Store (38' x 22'). Corrugated iron roof, plank walls.
- 1 Smoke-house (24' x 20'). Corrugated iron walls and roof, earth floor.
- 1 Factory (32' x 16'). Corrugated iron roof, plank walls, cement floor. Contains 2 hand machines, 28 latex mills and over 9,000 cups.
- 16 Coolie houses (each 13' x 14'). Plank walls attap roofs.

The above property will be sold by Public Auction in the Court House at Sandakan at 12 o'clock Noon, on SATURDAY, 20th October, 1917.

RESERVE PRICE \$100,000 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) STRAITS SETTLEMENTS CURRENCY.

(NOTE:—This reserve price has been based on a report on the Estate by the Honorable Mr. F. E. Leese, Manager of Sapong Estate).

The sale is subject to the following conditions:—

- \$30,000 (Singapore Currency) to be paid on purchase and the balance by monthly instalments thereafter of \$10,000. Interest at the rate of 7% per annum will be charged on instalments overdue and default for 30 days will invalidate the sale and render the deposit and all instalments liable to forfeiture.
- Upon payment of the deposit an agreement will be executed by the liquidator undertaking to complete the transfer of the estate, free of all incumbrances, on payment of the final instalment of the purchase money.

And to the following special conditions:—

- The purchaser must be a British subject and not under any foreign influence; he will be required to satisfy the Governor that no person of enemy or foreign origin is directly or indirectly interested with him in the purchase, and he must make such statutory declaration in that behalf as may be required by the Governor.
- For the purposes of this sale any person entitled under the Land Laws of North Borneo to rank as a Native shall be deemed to be a British subject.
- In the case of a Company formed for the purpose of acquiring the business of the Memorandum of Association must contain special provisions, to be approved by the Governor, to exclude the possibility of the Company falling under foreign control. Generally speaking it will be necessary to prevent more than one-fourth of the shares or the voting rights being held by, or subject to the control of, foreigners.
- In the case of a Company already in existence, if the Articles of Association do not already so provide, they must be altered in a manner satisfactory to the Governor so as to exclude the possibility of the Company falling under foreign control, and the Directors must furnish an undertaking to use their best endeavours to have the provisions referred to above inserted in the Memorandum of Association. If legislation should be introduced enabling the Memorandum of Association to be altered by the insertion of such provisions.
- Should the Governor for any reason not approve of the purchase, the contract may be rescinded by the Governor and the deposit will be returned without interest or expenses.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

W. W. SMITH,
Liquidator

RESIDENT'S OFFICE,
SANDAKAN, NORTH BORNEO,
20th June, 1917. [813]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, 13th Aug.—
Noon—Hongkong Cotton Spinning Weaving and Dressing Co., Ltd., Extraordinary General Meeting at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.
3 p.m.—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property at Sales Rooms, by Messrs. Hughes & Hough.

Wednesday, 15th Aug.—
11.30 a.m.—Hongkong Steel Foundry Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.

Thursday, 16th Aug.—
12.15 p.m.—British Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd., Extraordinary General Meeting.

Saturday, 18th Aug.—
Noon—Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at the Office of Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G.

INTIMATION

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12

DEATH.

Here: Drowned in the str. Mongolia, on striking a mine off Bombay, on June 23rd, Eric Hore, aged 28 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VOUX ROAD, C. LEONARD OFFICE: 181, FIRST STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 7th August, 1917.

THE BOND WHICH UNITES THE ALLIES.

Never, perhaps, in the history of the world has there been such a large group of nations joined together for the attainment of a common object. This is undoubtedly the most encouraging sign of the times, for, however loose the bond may be that now binds so many nations together and however far apart those nations may drift when the object is attained, it indicates that we have at least arrived at a stage of civilisation where it is possible for mankind to show some solidarity for the common benefit of humanity. It may be observed that the bond which holds the Allies and the United States together is not a political bond; there are no common political interests to serve in the ordinary sense of the term. Great Britain has no political ambitions on the Continent of Europe, the United States no political ambitions in any quarter of the globe. The United States did not come into the war on an agreement with the other Powers to share in the spoils of victory, and, although there has been much talk among the European Allies as to adjustments after the war, it cannot be said that such readjustments have anything to do with the real object of the war. France claims Alsace-Lorraine as part of her ancient heritage, and there is reason to believe that the provinces would be better ruled under France than they have been under Germany; but, as Mr. Lloyd George pointed out, France is not fighting for her lost provinces but for her very existence. "A Russian occupation of Constantinople—a dream of the Russian Imperialists—has now been dispelled with Imperialism itself. Imperial Russia was the weak link in the armour of the Allies. If reports are to be trusted, not even the

offer of Constantinople would have long kept Imperial Russia on the side of the Allies, so strong was the German influence in the Tsar's Court. The guiding principle of the Allies is the protection and establishment of national rights. If there is to be any redistribution of territory, not along the lines which have guided peace treaties in the past—that the victor shall claim the territory he pleases, irrespective of the rights and wishes of its inhabitants. The bond of solidarity among the Allies is thus much stronger than that which holds together the Central Powers, and, in so far as the aims are disinterested, the bond is less likely to be disturbed by outside influences. The political interests joining together the Central Powers already show signs of weakening. Austria is tired of the war; only the Pan-Germans there still retain the dream of victory. Turkey, rid of her German masters, would be ready to make peace to-morrow on any terms which left her a semblance of a kingdom. As long as those territorial aims with which Germany started the war had any chance of fulfilment, the bond held; now that Germany's prospects are fading the bond loosens. There was some glory in following a Germany which was going to conquer the whole world, but there is no glory in following a Germany which is plunging downhill to destruction. That Germany had territorial ambitions admits of no doubt. As Mr. Balfour recently reminded us, when Germany, in her desire to keep Britain out of the war, made an offer not to interfere with territory in France proper she refused to give any such undertaking in regard to French colonial possessions. This, in itself, is sufficient to dispose of the contention that Germany is fighting for her independence. German aims and ambitions do not make for solidarity, but, on the contrary, for a continuation of those divided purposes among the nations which drive them further apart. That such a reactionary policy can be upheld at the present day is impossible. The very desire for existence is welding the peoples of the world closer and closer together. Compared with even a hundred years ago, the bonds which unite the different nations of the world are innumerable, and the pressing claims of humanity to be allowed to live life to its fullest, to obtain from life all that it contains, will serve to increase these bonds in the future. The pseudo-scientific doctrine that progress is a struggle between individuals and between nations now obtains only in hopelessly obscurantist circles. The sooner we dismiss the idea that Nature is "red in tooth and claw" the sooner we shall get a clearer vision of the true path of progress.

We have received a parcel of books for the Troops from "Naval Man," and have sent them to the Rev. L. C. Cooper-Hunt, C.F.

Major T. C. Leah, R.G.A., a former Hongkong officer, has been awarded the D.S.O. for meritorious work at the front.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Allies Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals acknowledges with thanks a donation of \$100 to the Funds of the Hospitals from Choy Hing.

The wedding of Mr. Hugh Blair Duff, of the Chinese revenue cruiser *Lushan*, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Duff of Kilmaclom, Scotland, to Alice Mary, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hewitt, Shanghai, was solemnised at the Union Church, Shanghai, on August 1st.

The N.C. Daily News is authorised to state that the parties in the case of Marsh v. Morris having requested the Judges of His Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court, Shanghai, to assess the damages to be paid by the defendant to the plaintiff, the Judges have assessed them at \$20,000. As a result of the first hearing of this case, it will be remembered, the jury awarded Dr. Marsh \$5,000 damages.

MAGISTRATE FINED \$100 FOR WASTING FOOD.

Colonel T. J. Sunderland, J.P., of Ravensden Grange, was fined \$100 by his brother magistrates at Bedford Petty Sessions for feeding his fowls and pigeons on corn and maize. There were three counts under the Wheat, Rye, and Rice Restriction Order, and it was stated that the prosecution was on the express instructions of the Food Controller. "This is scandalous," he said, when he was fined £30 for the first offence, £30 for the second, and £50 for the third.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

[FROM OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT.]

MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FROM THE GROUP BANKS.

PEKING, August 6th.
It is reported that the four Group Banks will agree to a loan to the Central Government of a hundred million dollars. An early remittance of ten million dollars is expected.

NATIONAL COUNCIL TO BE CONVENED.

A National Council will be convened soon.

DECLARATION OF WAR IMMINENT.

China's declaration of war with Germany is imminent.

CHINA AND GERMANY.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

SHANGHAI, August 6th.

To-day the Foreign Ministers will visit the President. The Ministers of the Entente Powers will visit the President first, and they will be followed by the Ministers of the neutral Powers and of Austria. After the meeting a declaration of war is expected.

Wong To-hsieh has visited all the Ministers of the Entente Powers to report that China will declare war against Germany.

JAPANESE LOAN.

The Japanese Industrial Bank has paid \$10,000,000 to the Government as an advance on the loan of \$100,000,000.

TRAINING AT HOME.

HONGKONG LAD'S EXPERIENCES.

The following extracts from a recent letter written by a Hongkong-born Irish lad—the elder of two brothers, both with the A.I.F.—giving details of the training undergone in England, by Australian troops before being sent into France, may be of interest:—

In walking out this afternoon, I came across a young Englishman who had been wounded twice, and who is now training for his commission. I thanked God that I had not stayed behind. Unfortunately, there are many yet—too many—who are allowing others to fight for their freedom. Here are my diary entries for the past few days:—

June 11th.—Went through gas chambers, with helmets on. This proved very interesting. I intend to procure one of these helmets, after the fray, if possible.

June 12th.—Night stunt, 9 p.m.—11 p.m., i.e., we went out into the surrounding fields, and carried out a realistic attack on trenches, under cover of darkness. This, however, proved more of a fiasco than anything else. Moved home in bad humour.

June 13th.—Instruction on barbed-wire fencing, demolition work and anti-gas protection with helmets; all very interesting.

June 14th.—Inoculated this afternoon (against typhoid).

June 15th.—Off duty. Drowsy from inoculation. Slept during the morning.

June 16th.—Am B.O.C. (Battalion Orderly Corporal). Not an onerous job; in fact, rather slow.

Expect to be sent across into France now any day. Half our reinforcements have already gone.

Our particular regiment, suffered very heavily at Bullecourt. Shall be glad to get into the actual firing-line.

S. wants to get into the R.F.C. I suppose he has already told you.

We have not yet been able to see each other yet, although our camps, as the crow flies, are not over a dozen miles apart.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

CROWN TURF.

For cutting a quantity of turf on Crown land, a Chinese, who had been before the Court previously on a similar charge, was fined \$100, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment. Two other men who were charged with him were fined \$25, or one month's hard labour.

FOND OF HONGKONG.

Despite the fact that he was banished for life in January last, a Chinese was brought before Mr. Dyer Ball, charged with having made his way back to Hongkong. It was stated that the man had been banished on six occasions, and had returned five times, being sentenced, on the occasion of each return to twelve months' hard labour.
He was now remanded with a view to his commitment to the Criminal Sessions.

THE WAR.

GERMAN ATTACKS IN THE WEST.

KAISER AND BRITAIN. SOME DISCLOSURES.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

MILITARY SITUATION REVIEWED.

Branco-Belgian front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACKS GALLANT CANADIANS.

LONDON, August 5th. Reuter's correspondent at headquarters, writing on Sunday, says:—The weather is improving. There has been much fighting and intense artillery activity throughout the night and morning. The enemy counter-attacked with great weight in the neighbourhood of Hollebeke at dawn. Heavy fighting is reported, but the position is obscure.

The Canadians, further south, advanced their posts in the direction of Cite-du-Moulin, with great success at one o'clock in the morning, whereby our line was advanced to a depth of 200 yards towards Lens, on a front of 1,000 yards. Enemy attacks against the new front all failed. Apparently there were appalling German casualties.

We know that even the heavy and sustained German bombardments are inflicting a degree of loss on their own infantry, since they repeatedly shoot short. Proofs are available that the number of guns captured represents the minimum of what the enemy really lost. Officer prisoners admit that the 1918 class of regulars have been embodied and many of the 1919 class are in the field, which indicates that the limit in man-power is being rapidly reached.

VIOLENT ARTILLERY DUEL.

Paris, August 5th.

A communiqué says: The intermittent artillery duel has been somewhat violent towards Laroyère farm, in the Craonne sector, and in Champagne.

ENEMY ATTACKS ON BRITISH.

LONDON, August 5th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—After heavily shelling our positions southward and northward of the Ypres-Comines canal, the enemy attacked astride the canal and momentarily gained a foot-hold, at Hollebeke. Our counter-attack immediately drove him out and we took prisoner several of the enemy. Elsewhere the enemy's attacks failed. Our fire repulsed raiders southward of Quent.

GERMAN CLAIMS.

LONDON, August 5th.

A German official wireless message says:—Our "shock" troops penetrated French positions at Juvincourt, taking 100 prisoners.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN ARTILLERY MORE ACTIVE.

LONDON, August 5th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué, states:—The enemy's artillery is active in the neighbourhood of Hollebeke and the Ypres-Comines Canal. The French further progressed north-west of Bixchoote. We repulsed a raid south of Arleux-en-Gohelle. We successfully raided east of Vermelles. A German attack on a Portuguese post was driven off with loss.

HEAVY ENEMY ATTACK REPULSED.

Paris, August 5th.

A communiqué says:—South of Juvincourt, the enemy delivered a serious attack at midnight. After lively fighting, the assailants were driven out from a portion of the trench where they had gained a footing. The line has been re-established in its entirety. There is a violent artillery duel in the region of Northonne and Courières Wood.

Russian front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SOME RUSSIAN SUCCESSES. GOOD WORK BY SCOUTS.

PETROGRAD, August 5th. A wireless Russian official message says:—Our scouts in the region of the Kovel-Samir railway crossed the Stockhol neck-deep, and attacked the Austrian advanced-post, bayoneting some and taking prisoner the remainder. Our barrage drove back an attack in the direction of Kovel. We have captured Doljok Wood, eastward of Czernowitz, with 520 prisoners.

The enemy occupied the villages of Molodia and Kotubbanski, southwestward of Boinn. The enemy, after battle westward of the Sereth, captured Neifradov.

We retired eastward under pressure in the direction of Kimpolung. The enemy occupied Vanni.

Our scouts successfully raided in the region of Kotumikhali, bayoneting scores of the enemy.

GERMAN MESSAGE.

LONDON, August 5th.

A wireless German official message says:—There have been violent artillery duels near Brody and Zbrucz. We are advancing in the wooded region southward of the Dniester, in the direction of Chotin. We pressed back the Russians, after battle, from Radutz, and crossed the Bistriz between Lunga and Brosteni.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ATROCIOUS GERMAN OUTRAGE END OF THE "BELGIAN PRINCE."

LONDON, August 5th.

The Admiralty confirms that a German submarine torpedoed the Belgian Prince on July 31st. The crew abandoned the ship in two boats, which the Germans smashed with axes and then deprived the crew of life-belts, leaving them on the submarine's deck and taking the Captain below. The submarine was then submerged without warning. The 43 men standing on the deck were all drowned, except three, who secretly retained their lifebelts and were picked up after being in the water eleven hours. The three survivors have made affidavits in support of the details of this atrocious outrage. It is cold-blooded murder, equalling, if not transcending, the worst of the crimes our enemies have committed against humanity.

EARLIER CABLES.

DUTCH LINER MINED.

LONDON, August 4th.

The Dutch liner Nordam, which was mined off Texel, is being towed to Nieuwediep.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AMERICA AGAINST SOCIALIST CONFERENCE.

NEW YORK, August 6th.

Mr. Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labour, has issued a statement opposing any International socialist conference at present, as the workers of America, Britain and France are doing their utmost to aid the war against autocracy, while the German workers are helping the Kaiser. Therefore, an International Conference would be positively injurious.

SITUATION IN RUSSIA.

DEALING WITH A GREAT SPYING ORGANISATION.

PETROGRAD, August 5th.

The Public Prosecutor has issued a statement as to why the authorities are prosecuting M. Lenin and his many accomplices for high treason and organising the rebellion. It is established that they were intriguing with Russia's enemies with a view to disorganising the Russian army, for which they have been distributing bribes supplied by enemy countries. The accused are also charged with organising the Petrograd rebellion of July 10th. Investigations disclosed the existence of a vast German spying organisation, which was working throughout Russia. The conclusion is irresistible that M. Lenin was a German agent.

STATEMENT BY M. KERENSKY.

The Premier, M. Kerensky, has issued a statement explaining that his resignation was due to the impossibility of establishing a compromise between the political Parties. He re-accepts office in view of the fact that defeat without and disintegration within was threatening the country. He appeals for the renunciation of Party quarrels and dwells on the stern necessity of carrying on the war, sustaining the Army's fighting forces, and re-establishing economic strength. He emphasises the indispensability of reorganising the Government in accordance with the Government principles already declared.

MORE SUPPORT FOR M. KERENSKY.

PETROGRAD, August 5th.

The Provisional Committee of the Duma endorsed the all-night conference's decision of the indispensability of M. Kerensky's Premiership. A joint meeting of the executive of the Soldiers' and Peasants' delegates approved of the decision by 147 votes to 46.

The Maximalists protested.

PEACE TALK.

PETROGRAD, August 6th.

At a meeting of the Soldiers' Delegates, M. Rosanoff, a delegate at the negotiations as regards the International Socialist Conference, reported that the date of the conference had been fixed for September 9th. The conditions therefore were favourable, and all agreed that it would hasten peace. The situation of the Central Powers was somewhat precarious, owing to the breakdown of German policy in Poland, where a revolt may momentarily be expected. The German majority and the minority of Socialists adopted the Russian programme. The majority of Britishers refused to participate, whereas the French wanted the conference postponed.

M. Rosanoff concluded by saying that the success of the conference depended on the attitude of their British and French comrades.

M. KERENSKY.

PETROGRAD, August 5th.

M. Kerensky has re-accepted the Premiership.

NEW CABINET TO BE FORMED.

PETROGRAD, August 6th.

The Ministers have placed their resignations in the hands of M. Kerensky in order to facilitate the formation of a new Cabinet.

M. Kerensky is busy conferring with politicians.

The Petrograd garrison remained perfectly quiet during the political ferment. A Military Commission which was sent to Kronstadt to investigate the circumstances preceding the Petrograd rioting, was obliged to return to Petrograd owing to the hostile reception.

CANADA AND COMPULSORY SERVICE.

OTTAWA, August 5th.

The Senate has passed the second reading of the Compulsory Military Service Bill by 54 votes to 25.

REMARKABLE DISCLOSURES.

THE KAISER AND ENGLAND.

LONDON, August 6th.

The Daily Telegraph publishes from the Philadelphia Ledger, the memoirs of Mr. Gerard, the American ex-Ambassador to Berlin, containing the reproduction of an amazing letter written by the Kaiser to President Wilson on August 10th, 1914, in response to the latter's offer of mediation. The statements in the letter, which are denied on the highest British authority, include one to the effect that King George assured Henry of Prussia, during a visit to London, that England would remain neutral if war broke out involving Germany, France, Austria and Russia.

The Kaiser also insinuates that the British proposed the Austrian capture of Belgrade, and maintains that all was going well in the direction of a settlement when he was surprised to hear of the mobilisation of the Russian Army. The Kaiser admits that the King told him that his offers to spare France, if Britain would guarantee her neutrality, were based on a misunderstanding, while Sir Edward Grey never took the offer with serious consideration. On the contrary, he declared that England had to defend Belgium "which," says the Kaiser, "had to be violated by Germany for strategic grounds, news having been received that France was preparing to enter Belgium, the King of the Belgians having refused my petition for a passage under the guarantee of his country's freedom." Mr. Gerard lays stress on the glaring discrepancy between the Emperor's and Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg's statements.

The letter was handed to Mr. Gerard when he interviewed the Kaiser at his castle in Berlin. The Kaiser talked despondently about the war. "I tried to cheer him up, saying the Germans would soon enter Paris," he answered. "The English have changed the whole situation. They are an obstinate nation. They keep up the war; it cannot end soon."

FIGHTING IN ROUMANIA. RUSSO-ROUMANIANS REPULSE ATTACKS.

JASSY, August 5th.

Recent communiqués continue to report fighting in the Putna and Casin valleys, where the Russo-Romanians repulsed all attacks launched with the object of regaining positions. The enemy are devastating new areas, which they were forced to abandon. They pillaged everything in the neighbourhood of Sofie, and carried off the inhabitants to work in Hungary.

PEACE BY THE SWORD. A STRIKING SPEECH.

LONDON, August 6th.

Mr. Holman, Premier of New South Wales, speaking at Sheffield, said that as one who all his life had been a pacifist, he had been compelled to adopt the view that peace in Europe and the safety of Democracy could only be secured by the arbitrament of the sword. This was a war of the peace-loving peoples of the world against war-loving peoples. He wanted the war carried to its final victorious conclusion in order that Democracy could devote its energies to the activities of peace. If we accepted the peace for which the so-called Pacifists clamoured we should have to devote all our energies to further preparation for war.

Germany would tell her people that the teaching of Bismark was right; that she had defied the world without punishment. Instead of having conscription as a temporary measure, we should have it as a permanent institution. Educational, social and industrial reforms would be delayed a hundred years, and the rattle of the German sword would be heard at the slightest opposition to German policy.

FOOD FOR NEUTRALS.

WASHINGTON, August 6th.

An agreement is imminent regarding the shipments of foodstuffs to neutrals, guaranteeing an export to Germany.

GERMANY AND THE WAR.

ANNIVERSARY.

PEACE TALK.

COPENHAGEN, August 6th.

There was a reception in the Reichstag building to celebrate the sitting of August 4th, 1914.

The President of the Reichstag, in the course of a speech, declared that upon their enemies would fall the responsibility if they decline to accept our proffered hand of peace.

The Chancellor said they all knew what was wanted. They would guarantee posterity against the recurrent misfortune of such a war.

CANADA AND THE WAR.

"WIN THE WAR" GOVERNMENT.

TORONTO, August 5th.

The "win the war" Convention closed with a women's demonstration supporting the policy adopted, namely, national non-partisan Government conscription of men and resources. The "Win the War" candidates of each constituency at the Convention demanded an increase in soldiers' pay and also three months furlough for the men of the first division. Subsequently, a delegation visited Sir R. L. Borden who said that as the conflict proceeded it became more and more clear that the full strength of the Commonwealth must be thrown into the balance, if victory was to be assured. He hoped in the near future that a "Win the War" Government would be formed, irrespective of Party, and including a special representation of the great agricultural labour interests, in which he was fully supported by his colleagues.

EARLIER CABLES.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER TO SWEDEN.

ZURICH, August 4th.

Count Tarnowski, formerly Austrian Ambassador at Washington, has been appointed Minister to Stockholm.

DEVELOPMENTS IN RUSSIA.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

LONDON, August 5th.

Following M. Kerensky's resignation the Government summoned a meeting of representatives of all parties, members of the Duma, the Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates, and the Peasants' Delegates, which, after an all-night sitting, agreed that M. Kerensky was the only man able to govern the country.

HISTORIC CONFERENCE.

PETROGRAD, August 5th.

M. Nekrasoff, the Vice-Premier, presided at the historic conference which ended at six o'clock in the morning.

M. Tereschenko, in summing up the debate, said anxiety of all parties to reach an agreement guaranteed the safety of the country. The sitting was suspended to enable the parties to settle their differences, and subsequently it was announced that the five chief parties were prepared to entrust M. Kerensky with the reconstitution of the Government, on condition, firstly, on behalf of the Socialists, that the Government adhere to its declaration of July 21st, and secondly, on behalf of the Cadets, that the Government enjoy entire freedom in its policy and not be subject to influence or pressure from political parties. All parties agreed that M. Kerensky was the only man able to assure the government of the country. M. Nekrasoff announced that the terms of the compromise would be immediately communicated to M. Kerensky.

M. KERENSKY TO REMAIN. After consultation with the Socialist Ministers, M. Kerensky has decided to remain in office. The Cabinet majority is expected to be Radical-Socialist.

GENERAL KORNILOFF'S APPOINTMENT.

LONDON, August 5th.

General Korniloff has accepted the Chief Command on condition that nobody will interfere with him, and that the measures recently adopted at the Front be applied to the depots at the rear.

INTERESTING HAPPENINGS.

PETROGRAD, August 5th.

General Gourko was arrested in Petrograd on a political charge after a search of his rooms.

The Executive of the Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates has resolved that a manifesto be worded pointing out that a continuance of the war will wreck the Revolution and all democracy. It appeals to M. Tchernoff, who has resigned his post of Minister of Agriculture.

Following charges that he contributed to a Russian journal in Switzerland financed by Germany, the ex-Minister, M. Khostoff, has been arrested and charged with appropriating one and a quarter million roubles with the object of preparing for the 1917 elections to the Duma.

The first detachment of one hundred and fifty women sailors is being formed in Petrograd.

THE NEXT STAGE OF WAR SITUATION REVIEWED.

LONDON, August 4th.

The opening of the fourth year of war is the universal theme of articles in the newspapers, which review the military, naval and financial situation in most optimistic vein and point out that Germany's latest pronouncements in the direction of peace are equivalent to a confession that her strength is waning, as that of the Allies is growing.

The King's message to the Allies voices the feelings of his subjects, to which emphatic expression will be given at a great meeting at Queen's Hall to-day, when the campaign which the National War Aims Committee has expounded will be inaugurated. Lord Crewe will preside and Mr. Lloyd George and Baron Sonnino will speak. The audience will include the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Bourne, twenty members of the Government, a hundred Members of Parliament and Metropolitan and Provincial Mayors.

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S CONFIDENCE.

LONDON, August 5th.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amiens, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig has issued an Army Order to-day, in which he says:—We enter the fourth year of the war with firm confidence based on what we and our gallant Allies have already done. This reconfirmation of the past three years can leave no doubt in our minds that the British armies in France and the workers of the Empire, upon whom they depended, have the power and the will to complete the task they have undertaken, and that they will continue until their labours are crowned with a certain and definite victory.

GEN. SIR W. ROBERTSON'S VIEW.

LONDON, August 5th.

General Sir William Robertson, interviewed by a representative of the New York Times, said:—No soldier can answer the question how the war is going. It is a struggle of nations in which the psychology of the peoples is involved and the armies in the field are only a part of this tremendous conflict. Behind them is the nerve of each separate nation. The will of nations can be broken by hopelessness and despair. If the Army does not track, the nations behind it may. When you consider the numbers and resources on each side, you may fairly conclude that if the Allied nations are steadfast, if the civilian heart is sound, submission must come sooner or later from the Central Powers. The material odds are on our side at last, but quality and character are going to win this war. The Germans affect to despise the intervention of America, but only because the Higher Command is anxious that the will of their people shall not break when a nation of a hundred millions, inventive, resourceful and immensely courageous, with the fire of moral idealism in its blood, joins the democratic Powers which are hammering autocratic militarism and are absolutely determined to go on hammering it until the world is really safe. For democracy the end is certain, and America's entry should hasten the end. If I may say so, Gentlemen of the United States, you have backs into the rear.

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HAIPHONG	"TAKSANG"	Friday, 10th Aug. 7 A.M.
MANILA	"YUENSANG"	Saturday, 11th Aug. 3 P.M.
MANILA	"LOONGSANG"	Saturday, 18th Aug. 3 P.M.

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BERLIN TO-DAY.
WAR-WEARY BUT "STILL ALIVE."
"MOEWE" FILM HORRORS.

[BY F. SEFTON DELMER.]
Professor F. Sefton Delmér, who left Berlin on May 23rd, is an Australian, and became English lecturer at Berlin University in 1901. Interned at Ruhleben from November, 1914, to March, 1915, he subsequently enjoyed unusual opportunities of observing developments in Berlin.

Although the fact has never been publicly proclaimed, everybody knows that a major of the General Staff gathers the newspaper editors together once a week and tells them what they are to talk about in their newspapers during the coming week and what attitude they are to adopt. On the whole, the German Press is a meek flock and bleats loud or soft, east or west, as the Military Press Bureau prescribes.

The courage of even the most dauntless of the Berlin journalists, Maximilian Harden, comes out at his finger-tips when it comes to the point. I heard him one evening tell a crowded public meeting in the big Philharmonic Hall that he had been forbidden by the authorities to discuss the question of peace terms. With a heroic gesture—he has been an actor in his time—he protested, "Der Wunsch der Regierung wäre mir aber kein Gebot." ("I would not let the wish of the Government stand in my way if I thought it meant stand in Germany's advantage to disregard it.") The crowd applauded this unflinching independence of spirit, but at Harden's next meeting he cowed as soft as any dove, for his magazine, the *Freie Presse* (*Free Press*), had in the meantime been confiscated and he had promptly come to heel.

From private sources I know that Harden is convinced not only that there need have been no European war had Germany not decided on it; that England and France did their best to prevent the war, but, what is worse in his eyes, he thinks that Germany blundered into an unequal and therefore disastrous contest through departing from Bismarck in traditions of statesmanship.

The consequence of all the terroristic control of the Press is a crop of all sorts of subterranean cabals and camouflages among the educated classes, and among the uneducated a feeling of distrust, a feeling of being blindfolded and, perhaps, misled.

THE "MOEWE" FILM.
Needless to say, I attended such public meetings as the one at the Philharmonic Hall mentioned above, entirely at my own risk. I was supposed to remain in my home after 8 p.m. Three or four times, like a criminal drawn up by a magnet, I went out the scene of his past crime, I went out to Ruhleben and walked through Spandau. I sometimes visited Kinowas, too, that were showing war films, but the game was never worth the candle. These films love to show the Boche as a philanthropist. Now he will be sharing his dinner with some orphans in the occupied territory, now standing with bowed heads in some ruined church, and anon feeding a Belgian baby from a bottle.

Just before I came away, however, the *Moewe* films (depicting the Atlantic raiders) were put on, and they were from my point of view well worth seeing. From a German standpoint they are undoubtedly a gross mistake, for, in their grim realism, they bring home to the beholder the wholesale and wanton destruction of peaceful merchantmen and the imagination to conceive of the unspeakable horrors of the Boche as a whole, horrors which the Germans, as a whole, have not yet grasped. One sees on these films, which take exactly one hour to show, steamers and sailing-ships brought up, one sees the torpedo strike the ship, and the noble vessel, as in agony, struggle, writhe, fill, and sink.

The effect on the spectators was the very reverse of what the military authorities wished to produce. Far from being exhilarated, the public seemed depressed by the sight of what they felt to be cold-blooded murder of unarmed ships. "Schrecklich! Schrecklich!" ("Frightful! Frightful!") they whisper, as if it is just beginning to dawn on them why that other more terrible and cowardly form of hostilities, the Boche war, has found the German name so detested throughout the world.

On one of the pictures one sees the captain of the *Brückenschiff* after his ship has sunk, standing on the bridge of the *Boche* beside Graf Dohna, the German commander. The latter had made some joke at which the British captain, who was in the boat, had been constrained to laugh, although he had just seen his ship sink; but his heart was breaking. The chivalrous German newspapers sneer at his heartlessness. "This is an English discentleman," they say, "laughing as he watches his ship go down!"

THE HIDDEN CASUALTIES.
In spite of all the German twisting of facts and all their skill in making the worse appear the better reason, they really do not believe they are winning. None of them has, it is true, any idea of their actual losses in the field. Vague estimates are current. I take the one that is going the rounds as being most symptomatic. Among the officials at the Deutsche Bank a report was recently in circulation, estimating Germany's losses alone at 1,300,000 men killed up to the end of March, 1917. A civilian in a high official position, who was present at the discussion, contradicted this, saying that he believed this estimate to be too low by at least half.

No official totals are published. The long sheets of casualties are still pasted up on the polished granite of the *Kriegsakademie* (Staff College) in Berlin, but one no longer sees the groups of weeping women and eager searchers that were constantly standing there in the early stages of the war. The authorities now have more expeditious private ways of informing the relatives.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

AIR OFFENSIVES.
[BY A BRITISH AIRMAN.]

During the great offensive on the Somme aeroplanes were, of course, carrying on an offensive too.

One of their cheerful duties was to go and sit over the tops of Hun aerodromes at about 2,000ft. or so, and shoot down any machine that tried to rise, while every kind of gun available was blazing away at them.

Now 2,000ft. is an uncomfortable height at which to fly; it is much too low. Almost all classes of war aeroplanes spend their time from 8,000ft. to 20,000ft. up, and at 2,000ft. a pilot feels as if he were going to knock the trees out of the ground—there is not enough elbow-room.

It was useful work, however, for it blinded the Hun commanders. Indeed, at times not a Hun machine was to be seen in the air. But it was expensive work too—we lost a lot of good pilots. One scheme the Huns evolved was to get up a bit earlier and get out of sight, and then dive on our machines as they circled above their aerodromes. This meant stiff and sharp fighting. Modern machines travel anything from one to two miles a minute level, and much faster when diving. They are practically invisible at about two miles distance. Consequently there is little time to act once an assailant is upon you.

In one such offensive action, a typical case of many which were going on all round at the time, a pilot found himself attacked by three at once. One was diving on him in front, to the left; one was diving on his tail; and one was coming up from the aerodrome below. They were all firing at him. He was flying a fast but clumsy machine. He dived straight into the machine below him and fired into the pilot's back. Then he pulled the machine up and "zoomed" straight up at the one on his front and blazed at that. Sweeping straight on up and over in a sideways loop, he brought a side-gun to bear on the one behind, and again fired into the pilot's back.

Another form of offensive, most vigorously carried on, was continual bomb raids, 100 miles and more over the lines. That is where good piloting comes in. It is not an easy thing to lead a squadron over unknown ground, greatly altered by the developments of war, for two by the developments of war, for two hours or more, and get them to a pre-arranged spot—say, an ammunition dump (which, of course, will be carefully concealed)—and then bring them back again without losing the way.

Some pilots have almost an instinct for this sort of thing. One man led his squadron for two hours over clouds which were blotting out all landmarks. There were the usual troubles and direction at different heights. None the less when they saw him descend through the clouds they knew their objective was at hand—and there it was, about five miles away, three minutes' flight. Pilots follow such men anywhere. To make more sure of getting direct hits it was a common practice with some squadrons to descend to 500ft. over the place to be bombed. If a bomb hits a place from that height the machine that threw it gets a good amount of a feather in its eye. One pilot just missed a shed that it was not really in the orders to bomb. Now's came to hand afterwards that it had been packed full of high explosive! "I am sorry I missed it," he said. "It would have been one of the biggest things of the war—but I expect I should have witnessed it from Heaven!"

In spite of their doubts about victory and of their distrust of, and resentment at, the methods their own Government have adopted towards them, there is, as I said before, no sign that the Germans will yield till they are at their last gasp. I have, however, heard with my own ears certain members of the Roman Catholic Centre Party in the Reichstag say that they did not see how either Germany or its enemies could possibly hold out till Christmas. Any such discouraging statements when made by less privileged individuals than members of Parliament are liable to be regarded as treasonable, and a reward of £150 promised to any one who can bring any propagator of such rumours to book. Police proclamations to this effect adorn the advertisements in the streets. This public incitement to private denunciation has produced a reign of terror. "Nobody is safe in even the most confidential conversation," I heard a university student say. The effect of muzzling conversation between all but the closest of friends.

Even the idol Hindenburg now comes in for criticism. He has the reputation of being a man who boasts of never having read any books except those written on military subjects, nor have I ever seen or heard of a single statement of his that betrayed anything more than a mediocre mind. Nevertheless, among the Reventlow party Hindenburg is still a fetish.

Hindenburg or no Hindenburg, both soldiers and officers are heartily sick of the war in general and the western front in particular, from which officers are known regularly to head their letters home with the words "Such ein Leben" (Still alive).

And that, I think, expresses the state of Germany regarded as a whole. "In spite of everything, we're still alive!"

(To be continued.)

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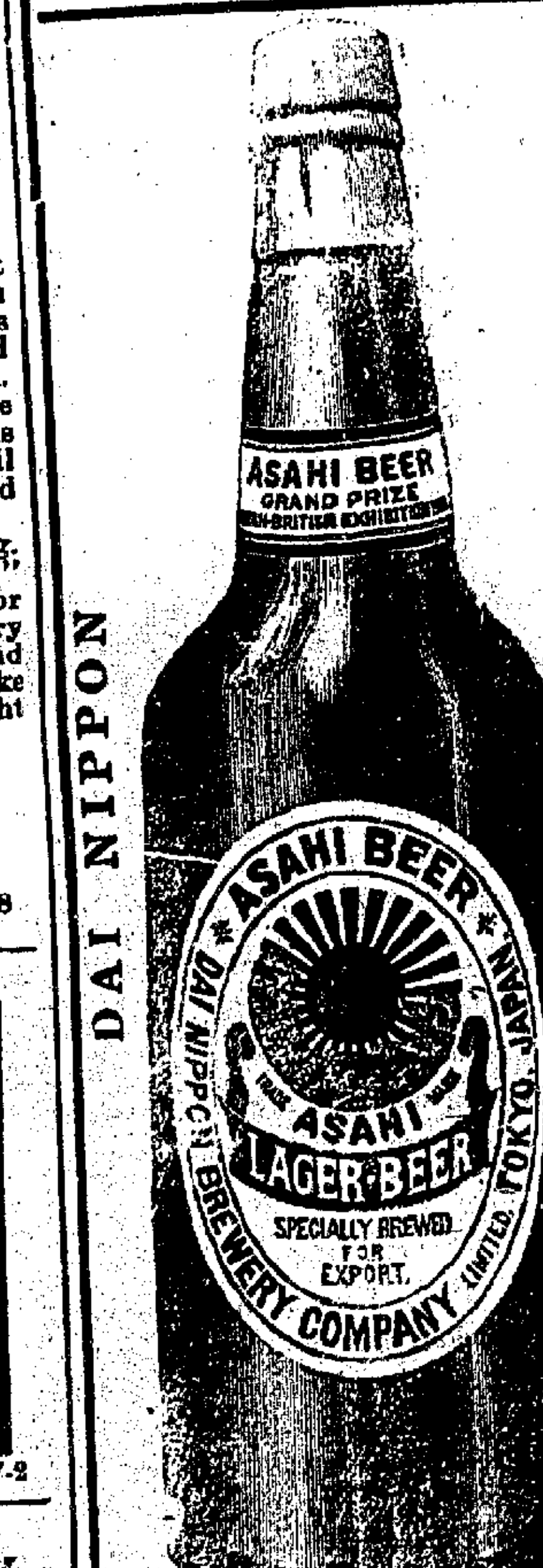
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